

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 27-29, 34-40, and 45-52 are in the application. Claims 30-33 and 41-44 have been canceled. Claims 27, 34, 38, 40, 44, 47, 48 and 52 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claim 27 to include the elements of claims 30-33, now canceled, and has amended claim 40 to include the elements of claims 41-44, now canceled. Claims 34, 38, 44, 47, 48 and 52 have been amended to further clarify the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-52 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Dodge et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The object of the present invention is to provide a method for operating a welding apparatus, and a welding apparatus which enables the rapid detection of a certain operating state and in order to avoid long down-times the automatic taking of

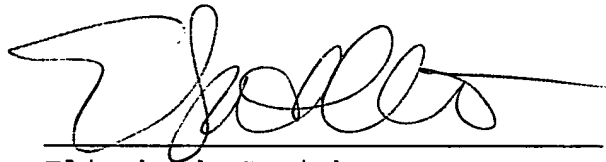
appropriate steps such that the information on the respective operating state will rapidly arrive at a receiver provided therefore.

This object is achieved by the method according to amended claim 27 and the welding device according to amended claim 40. By the welding method according to the present invention, special operating states are rapidly recognized and messages allocated as a function of the recognized operating states are transmitted to external receivers. In doing so, it is for instance feasible to detect the operating state of the welding wire by monitoring the welding wire supply coil, and transmit to an external receiver, shortly before the end of the wire, the allocated message according to which welding wire supplies are running short. The external receiver may, for instance, be a computer of the stock keeper, who will then be reminded that a new welding wire coil will have to be procured and taken to the welding apparatus. In doing so, the transmitted messages are uniquely allocated to the detected operating states, for instance errors, and preferably available in text form. The usually required translation of an error code by the operating personnel will, thus, be rendered superfluous, valuable time will be saved, and errors due to

misinterpretations of error codes will be reduced. It would, for instance, also be possible to detect the overcurrent of the welding wire feed motor and, upon exceeding of a defined limit value, transmit the allocated message of the core being contaminated to the responsible person, for instance a maintainer of the welding apparatus.

This is not taught or suggested by Dodge. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 27-30, 34-40 and 45-52 as amended are patentable over the cited reference. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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